

**TO:** TALK w/ADE Members

**FROM:** Jeannette Zemeida  
Arizona Department of Education  
Exceptional Student Services

**DATE:** June 5, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Minutes from Meeting on May 13, 2002

\*\*\*TALK w/ADE MEETING MINUTES\*\*\*

❖ **Welcome/Attendance**

- Steve Mishlove--Arizona Department of Education/Exceptional Student Services (ADE/ESS), Lynn Busenbark – ADE/ESS, Jeannette Zemeida--ADE/ESS, Laura Bistrow, Paradise Valley Unified School District, Gail Bornfield, Amphitheater Unified School District, Diane Bruening--Chandler Unified School District, Sherry Dorathy – Miami Unified School District, Catherine Hitchings – Higley Unified School District, Roger Kutemeier – Mesa Public Schools, Pat Marsh – Ft. Huachuca Accommodation School, Lorrane McPherson, Tucson Unified School District; Helen Stalnaker, Tuba City Unified School District; John Stuckey – Excel Education Centers, Inc.; Sue Tillis – Sunnyside Unified School District; Bea VanMantgem--Prescott Unified School District, Robert Wolf – Parker Unified School District; also attending: Miriam Podrazik – ADE/ESS and Dale Brown – Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center

❖ **District Reports**

- Everyone present introduced him or herself and gave a short report regarding current issues/activities going on at their district/school.

❖ **ADE Update**

- Current focus groups created by ESS:
  - English Language Learners – Contact person: Bobbie Orlando, (602) 364-0642
  - Residential Vouchers – Contact person: Kathryn Huizenga, (928) 226-0849 x 15
  - Prior Written Notices - Contact person: Dana Morrison, (602) 364-4002
  - Disproportionality Issues – Contact person: Lillie Sly, (602) 364-4004
  - IEPs (Expanding AzTas document) – Contact person: Tricia Henneberg, (520) 770-3830
  - AzTas, Child Identification – Contact person: Rita Kenison, (602) 364-4015
  - Independent Educational Evaluations – Contact person: Hugh Pace, (520) 628-6616
  - Charter Training Issues – Jim Taylor, (602) 364-4021; Karen Johnson, (602) 542-3861If anyone is interested in participating in any of the groups call the contact person for that focus group.
- Summer Institute 2003
  - June 22-25, 2003
  - Focus will be on reading
  - Participants will be division-wide, not just special education

- Due Process
  - Scheduled to be discussed during the May 21 SEAP meeting in Casa Grande
    - Proposal: moving from 2-tier to 1-tier hearing system
    - Speakers scheduled to speak on issue
    - SEAP voted to support movement

Talk w/ADE members invited to participate.
- Consent Decree
  - Changes have been made to the early resolution process – it will extend some timelines – approved by the consent decree special monitor
  - Review and Compensation Committee is made up of five people – ESS picked a district person and a person from the Special Education Advisory Panel. Two people were chosen by the Arizona Center for Disability Law and, jointly, an individual w/a disability was chosen.
  - Currently, it looks as if ESS will be out from under the Consent Decree by the designated timeline, September 2002
- School Renovation, IDEA, Technology Grants Program
  - \$2 million will be available to districts to apply toward any need they choose
  - Application will be available in August and will be due back by September
  - Competitive grant
  - Requirements:
    - 30% or more poverty or 10,000 poor children based upon 1997 census data
    - Rural local code of 7 or 8
- Director's Institute
  - October 16-17, 2002; October 18, 2002 half day for new directors
  - Mesa Hilton
  - Talk w/ADE members invited to participate on planning committee

## ❖ Recruitment and Retention

- Dale Brown, Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center, gave an update on the Arizona Center for Professions in Education
  - Mary Urich is the ADE/ESS contact for this project
  - The Arizona Educational Employment Board web site has been updated; web address is [www.arizonaeducationjobs.com](http://www.arizonaeducationjobs.com)
    - 200% more usage out-of-state users versus in-state
    - Districts can use this system free of charge
  - Working on speech language/pathology shortage in Arizona
    - Networking across nation for students to come in on field-based training program
  - Arizona Promising Practices Website – [www.azpromisingpractices.com](http://www.azpromisingpractices.com)

## ❖ Emergency Certification

- Miriam Podrazik reported that there were 427 (July 1 2001 – July 1, 2002) cross-categorical emergency certificates issued as of April 30, 2002. This is the largest category.
  - Speech is #1 needed category
- SELECT classes available for teachers
  - Fee for certification
  - Free for professional growth
- Partnership for Funding

- Miriam asked for ideas on partnering with schools to help individuals on emergency certificates pay for SELECT classes
- Some districts have partial tuition reimbursement for training classes
- Suggestions for acquiring more special education teachers and lowering number of emergency certificates:
  - Universities could emphasize more special education courses in their general education curriculum so that people are aware that special education is another avenue; more likely to get a job in special education due to the shortage
- Steve Mishlove addressed questions and concerns regarding hold-up of emergency certificates.
  - Suggested calling Lanny Standridge, (602) 542-2300, in Certification for details
- Miriam suggested inviting a representative from Certification to next meeting to address certification questions.

## ❖ OPEN DISCUSSION

- Members decided to have in-person meetings on a monthly basis and eliminate the teleconferences due to the increased size of the group.
  - Laura Bistrow offered Paradise Valley Unified School District as the meeting location
- Discussion was held regarding rules regarding supervision of speech language assistants
  - Lynn suggested that Talk w/ADE members send their concerns about the rule to their contacts and legislators to have rule regarding supervision of SLA's altered
- Discussion concerning Special Education rules concerning evaluations – calendar day vs. school days
  - Preschool evaluations versus evaluations of school-age children were discussed
  - Lynn urged everyone to put in their suggestions for changes to the rules before they are opened
- Vocational Rehabilitation has maxed federal funds; creating Memos of Understanding at this time
- Certificate of Completion vs. Diplomas for high school students
- SAIS and special education reporting problems
- No Child Left Behind
  - Will this eventually eliminate out-of-level testing? Concerns discussed.
- Due to shortage of time only two meeting dates for the following fiscal year were set: June 17, 2002 and August 26, 2002. The rest of the calendar will be finalized at the June meeting.
- Helen Stalnaker will be responsible for creating the agenda for the June meeting

## ❖ NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting will be held June 17, 2002, Paradise Valley Unified School District, IMC Building, Blue Room, 15002 N. 32<sup>nd</sup> St., Phoenix, 9 am –12 noon.

**Emergency Teaching Special Education Certificates issued 7-1-2001 to 7-1-2002: 817**

Cross-Categorical.....	427
Early Childhood.....	48
Emotional Disability .....	49
Hearing Impaired .....	18
Learning Disabled.....	158
Mental Retardation.....	28
Orthoped. Impair.....	1
Severely/Profound.....	20
Speech/Lang.....	54
Visually Impaired.....	14